

Message Text

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS, 12-31-81
TAGS: PARM, NATO
SUBJECT: NATO MINISTERIAL: CONSULTATIONS WITH EC-9 POLITICAL
DIRECTORS

TO THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR RUMSFELD

1. I SUGGEST THAT YOU GIVE SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO PROPOSING
AT THE NATO MINISTERIAL THAT THE POLITICAL DIRECTORS OF THE
FIFTEEN ALLIED COUNTRIES MEET WITHIN A FEW WEEKS AFTER EACH NATO
MINISTERIAL TO DISCUSS FOLLOW-UP POLITICAL CONSULTATIONS
WITHIN THE ALLIANCE.

2. I MAKE THIS RECOMMENDATION BECAUSE I BELIEVE THAT IT WILL
PROVIDE THE MOST EFFECTIVE CHANNEL FOR REGULAR CONSULTATIONS
BETWEEN THE FIFTEEN AND THE KEY POLICYMAKERS WITHIN THE NINE
ON POLITICAL QUESTIONS. EXPERIENCE WITH EVOLVING EC POLITICAL
CONSULTATIONS HAS SHOWN CLEARLY THAT IT IS THE POLITICAL
DIRECTORS OF THE NINE (E.G., VAN WELL, PUAUX, DUCCI, DAVIGNON)
WHO ARE THE SPARKPLUGS OF EC POLITICAL CONSULTATIONS, BY
VIRTUE OF THEIR PERSONAL SKILLS AND INFLUENCE AS WELL AS OF
THEIR POSITION.
SEMI-ANNUAL MEETINGS BETWEEN THESE OFFICIALS AND THE OTHER
SEVEN ALLIES WOULD, IN MY VIEW, REQUIRE THE EC-9 TO TAKE FULL
ACCOUNT OF WIDER CONCERNS, PARTICULARLY RELATING TO THE IMPACT
OF THEIR ACTIONS ON THE DEFENSE AND SECURITY INTERESTS OF
OTHER ALLIES. SUCH MEETINGS WOULD ALSO HELP MEET THE FEARS OF
SECRET

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EXCLUSION EXPRESSED BY CANADA AND THE FLANK STATES.

3. THIS PROPOSAL WOULD IN EFFECT BE A COMBINATION OF THE PRES-
IDENT'S TWO RECOMMENDATIONS IN APRIL 1969 THAT THE ALLIES

FORM A SPECIAL BODY FOR MEDIUM- TO LONG-TERM POLITICAL
PLANNING AND THAT THEY CONVENE REGULAR MEETINGS OF DEPUTY
FOREIGN MINISTERS (ALTHOUGH I SUGGEST THAT THE U.S. BE RE-
PRESENTED AT THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY LEVEL). STOESSEL'S
MEETING WITH EC POLITICAL DIRECTORS ON THE U.S.-
EC DECLARATION PROVIDES A USEFUL PRECEDENT.
RUMSFELD

SECRET

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